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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 PUGET SOUNDKEEPER
11 ALLIANCE,

CASE NO. C20-1301JLR

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

12 Plaintiff,

v.

13 ASH GROVE CEMENT
14 COMPANY,

15 Defendant.

16 This matter comes before the court *sua sponte*. On January 3, 2022, the court
17 granted the motion to withdraw filed by Defendant Ash Grove Cement Company’s (“Ash
18 Grove”) former attorneys. (1/3/2022 Order (Dkt. # 26).) In her declaration filed in
19 support of the motion to withdraw, attorney Tanya Barnett represented that (1) on
20 December 9, 2021, she informed Ash Grove’s general counsel of her firm’s intent to
21 withdraw; (2) Ash Grove’s general counsel informed her that the company would retain
22 new counsel before December 31, 2021; and (3) on December 15, 2021, her firm advised

1 Ash Grove's general counsel that this court's local rules required Ash Grove to be
2 represented by an attorney admitted to practice before this court and that failure to obtain
3 replacement counsel could result in entry of default against Ash Grove. (Barnett Decl.
4 (Dkt. # 21) ¶¶ 3-9; *see also* Mot. to Withdraw (Dkt. # 20).) Although six months have
5 passed since the court's January 3, 2022 order, no replacement attorney has appeared in
6 this matter on behalf of Ash Grove. (*See generally* Dkt.)

7 Supreme Court precedent and this court's local rules require that a business entity
8 must be represented by counsel in federal court. *See Rowland v. Cal. Men's Colony*, 506
9 U.S. 194, 202 (1993) ("It has been the law for the better part of two centuries . . . that a
10 corporation may appear in federal courts only through licensed counsel . . . [T]hat rule
11 applies equally to all artificial entities."); Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 83.2(b)(4) ("A
12 business entity, except a sole proprietorship, must be represented by counsel."). The
13 court's local rules further provide that "failure to obtain a replacement attorney by the
14 date [former counsel's] withdrawal is effective may result in . . . entry of default against
15 the business entity as to any claims of other parties." Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR
16 83.2(b)(4).

17 Accordingly, the court ORDERS Ash Grove, by no later than June 30, 2022, either
18 to obtain counsel to represent it in this lawsuit or show cause why the court should not
19 enter default against it if it remains unrepresented by counsel. If Ash Grove does not
20 obtain counsel or otherwise show cause by June 30, 2022, the court will enter default
21 against it.

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1 Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

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5 JAMES L. ROBART
6 United States District Judge
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